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THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Succeſſion. Of the Duty of a People to provide for their Poſterity. Of the Advantage of the preſent Settlement, and the Succeſſion of the Houſe of Hannover. *Of the Prejudice of Falſe Lies and Stories. Of the Poem, call'd* All Men Mad, or *England* a great *Bedlam. Reflections on the ſame.*

From **Wednesday** September the 27th, to **Saturday** September the 30th, 1704.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, as I came Trotting Homewards this Journey, I was Seriouſly conſidering on the preſent State of *England*: In the firſt Place I concluded that no Nation in the World could be more Happy under a Soveraign Head, under the Government of a Queen, who, with the Advice of *Engliſh* Council, would make this and our Neighbouring Nations the Honour and Glory of the whole Univerſe.

Then I conſider'd what our Parliaments have done in Settling the Succeſſion on the Houſe of *Hannover* for the good of Poſterity. But by the many Libels and Pamphlets, Reflecting on the Succeſſion, and the *Auguſt* Houſe of *Hannover*, I thought there might be ſomething yet farther done for the good of Poſterity, by a more firm Settlement of that Succeſſion.

Therefore Sir, for the Information of my ſelf, and the Common People of *England*, who have not Time and Capacity to conſider of ſo weighty an Affair, I would deſire you to ſpend part of your Time in ſhowing the Neceſſity of Preſerving the Succeſſion, as it is now by Law Eſtabliſhed, with your Thoughts how to make the ſame yet more Durable and Laſting.

Obſ. Your Propoſal is Honeſt and Neceſſary, and I cannot forego it, ſince the good of Poſterity depends upon its Subject matter; and if I can ſerve my Country therein, I don't care how many more Enemies it makes me.

The Good of Poſterity is the chief Buſineſs of Humane Life: He is the moſt deſpicable Wretch under the Copes of Heaven, that Lives for himſelf only, without any regard to the future Happineſs of Succeeding Generations. Humane Nature it ſelf (tho' circumſcrib'd within ſhort Periods of Time) ſeems to Aim at Immortality: It's Actions are Progreſſive; they always move forward to Perpetuity; and tho' Humane Bodies are Mortal, yet that Intellectual Being that Informs them, not only Dictates an Immortality to the *better Part*, but it ſhows the *Animal Part*, the Neceſſity of continuing its *Species* to the utmoſt Duration of Time.

Let us take a View of Mankind in their *Relative* Capacity, and ſee how they Work and Toil, how they Labour, like the Induſtrious Bee, to make Proviſion for their Children, after they Themſelves are laid in the Duſt, and know not whether their Sons come to Honour or Diſgrace.

Humane Bodies are continued in *Specie* by Natural Generation: The *Body Politick* is ſtill the ſame without any Alteration of Form or Subſtance. The Heads of Governments, Kings and Queens, or other Soveraigns, are the *Formæ Informantes* of theſe *Politick Bodies*; they are the *Totum in toto, & Totum in qualibet Parte*, as being Veſted with the full Executive Power of the Laws, made for the Preſervation of Humane Societies; In ſhort, they are the *Anima Imperij*, the ſame in the *Body Politick*, as the Soul is in the Natural Body.

And therefore the Health of the *Body Politick* depends upon its Head or Governour; which, if it be too Hot or too Cold, will bring either a Feaver or an Ague, will either warp the Body by Heat, or benumb the Limbs by Cold.

Now every Man in *England* is a part of this *Politick Body*, and is ſo near the *Anima Imperij*, as to be affected by its Intemperature: If a Body be Sick at Heart, the Diſtemper is Diffuſed thro' every Part; Every *Limb*, *Membrane*, *Muſcle*, and Extream part of the Body has its Afflictive ſhare of the Malady. And therefore it ought to be the Care of a Wiſe People, that the *Forma Informans* of the *Body Politick* be of a good Temperament, and ſuited to the Diſpoſition of the Parts which it informs.

Now, tho' Kings and Queens in their High Stations, by Vertue of the great Truſt repoſed in them, and the Power of the Laws which Enables them to Execute that Truſt, are Mighty and Powerful, yet they are Subjected to Death, their Scepters muſt Drop from their Hands, and their Crowns muſt Tumble from their Heads. *Pallida Mors, æquo pulſat Pede Pauperum Tabernas, Regumq; Turres.* Death walks with an even Step, and Knocks as well at the Doors of Princes, as of Cottagers.

Now if Kings and Queens are Subject to *Death*, and muſt launch into Eternity with their Subjects, I think it Behoves them and us too, to take care of Poſterity in the future Settlement of the Crown. Kings or Queens, and their Subjects dye alike, only with this Difference, that Crowned Heads leave the Body Politick behind them, entire in all its Parts, to be Inform'd by another *Anima Imperij*, or Succeſſor.

Now this Succeſſor muſt be of the ſame Qualities, of the ſame Heroick and Regal Virtues, as the Predeceſſor was, otherwiſe the Politick Body, which it Informs, meeting with contrary Qualities, will either be put into Convulſions or waſted by Conſumptive Accidents. We have a ſad Occaſion of remembring how ill a *Popiſh* Head ſuits with a *Proteſtant* Body; and therefore, to keep a due Temperament and Agreement of Parts in the *Politick Body*, the late King *William*, of Pious and Glorious Memory, with the Aſſiſtance of his Parliaments, ſettled the Succeſſion in the *Proteſtant* Line, which has been confirmed and ſtrengthned by our Preſent Soveraign Lady, with the Univerſal Conſent of Her Parliament.

Indeed the Settlement of the Succeſſion is the chiefeſt Bleſſing of the *Revolution*; and muſt appear, to any one that has regard to Poſterity, to be well worth the Money it coſt us. By this

Means